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Donors Agree To Fund Bosnia's Urgent Reconstruction

$500 Million Pledged For First Quarter Of 1996

Officials from more than 50 countries and 27 organizations met in Brussels from December 20-21 to mobilize funds for the first three months of urgent reconstruction work in war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina—the largest reconstruction effort in Europe since the end of World War II.

At the meeting, hosted by the World Bank and the European Commission, participants made new commitments of $500 million to finance the priority needs for the first quarter of 1996. Further commitments totaling $30 million to $40 million are expected within the next few weeks.

"This is a very critical period for the peace process," says Kemal Dervis, director of the World Bank's Central Europe Department, who co-chaired the meeting with European Commissioner Hans van den Broek. "The people of Bosnia are longing for reconstruction, a normal life and economic recovery. If their energies and activities can be focused on these things, the peace process will have a much better chance of success."

The World Bank and the European Commission presented a priority program for the first three months requiring commitments of $518 million to begin the reconstruction process. These funds would meet the most immediate need for equipment and productive inputs, provide support to key institutions and set up a social fund for the most vulnerable members of society.

World Bank

More than half of all housing in Bosnia has been damaged.

Commissioner Van den Broek, in his opening statement, stressed that, "our assistance will go to projects in the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina and we attach utmost importance to the early establishment of the central functions of its government."

Dervis noted that Bosnia must have ownership of the program: "The objective is to get the Bosnian economy to start to manage itself, with economic aid from abroad to jump-start the process."

In addition to the commitments made for the first quarter of 1996, most donors indicated a willingness to move ahead with support for the long-term program which will be the subject of a ministerial conference in March 1996. It will seek commitments for the overall program, which is estimated at about $5 billion.

The initial program will include vital reconstruction in the fields of transport, power, gas, water and waste management, as well as financing to pay for goods for agriculture, mine-clearing equipment, education and

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Forced Labor Allegations Unfounded, World Bank Says

Investigation Finds No Evidence Of Claims by Harry Wu

A six-week World Bank staff inquiry has found no evidence to substantiate claims by Harry Wu, of the Laogai Research Foundation, that one of its projects in China, the Tarim Basin Project in Xinjiang Autonomous Region, is benefiting or using forced labor, Bank officials announced at a press conference December 20.

The Bank announced a full inquiry immediately after Wu made his allegations on October 23. It said that, although it had no knowledge of any such benefit, it took Wu's claims seriously and would deal with them thoroughly and openly. If a link between project activities and the use of forced labor were established, the Bank added, appropriate action would be taken to dissociate the Bank from those activities.

Wu was also widely quoted as saying that the Tarim Basin Project "is using tens of thousands of prisoners from at least 21 forced labor camps."

Extensive investigations by senior Bank officials took place at the head office in Washington, at the resident mission in Beijing, and at the Tarim Basin project site. The investigations included a detailed review of contracts, plans and other documents pertaining to the project, right down to the village and household level, plus on-site interviews and inspections.

The Bank broadened its inquiry to embrace all its projects in Xinjiang Autonomous Region. Further, the Bank launched an internal review of its entire China portfolio of 159 projects to determine whether Mr. Wu's allegations may apply to the 152 projects outside of Xinjiang.

Both the Tarim Basin Project inquiry and the broader Xinjiang and China-wide inquiries were conducted independently of the Chinese Government, which cooperated fully with the Bank. The Government also mounted its own investigation in Xinjiang, with a Bank staff member as an observer.

In early December the special World Bank mission to Xinjiang completed its inquiries and reached the following conclusions:

1) No evidence was found to support any link between the Tarim Basin Project and the use of forced labor. No evidence was found of Bank money being diverted or misused in any way. No evidence was found of any benefit, direct or indirect, to forced labor camps or military "special farms."

The mission confirmed that the map issued with Wu's press release on October 23 erred in implying that project works and hence beneficiaries cover virtually the entire Tarim Basin. In fact, the project works are contained in two river basins, the Weigan and the Yerqiang, both of which are overwhelmingly Uygur, not Han Chinese.

The mission reported that the captions to photographs attached to Wu's press release were similarly in error. "Four of them (marked Shaya Region) were taken 30 km south of the last drain of the Weigan River component, and three (marked Aksu Region) are in a basin in which there is no project production activity whatsoever, about 500 km of desert from Yerqiang and 300 km from Weigan," according to the report.

2. The broader inquiry into other World Bank projects in Xinjiang Autonomous Region also failed to find evidence of any link to forced labor. The mission did determine that:

(a) The Xinjiang State Farms Organization, known alternatively as the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, which implemented the Bank-funded Xinjiang Agricultural Development Project and is implementing a part of the Xinjiang component of the Bank-funded Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, is responsible for administering some prisons and adjacent farms on behalf of the central Ministry of Justice.

(b) Some of the farms benefiting under the Water Supply and Sanitation Project—including one visited by mission members—are in close proximity to prisons and prison farm areas.

(c) No administrative relationship was found between the Xinjiang State Farms Organization and the military, as alleged. Assurances of this were provided by central authorities as well as officials of Xinjiang State Farms. Observations by the mission, and by dozens of previous Bank missions to Xinjiang, are that the population under Xinjiang State Farms is predominantly civilian farmers and enterprise workers and their families, not soldiers or prisoners.

3) The World Bank's voluntary review of its entire China portfolio produced no evidence to demonstrate grounds for concern. Of the 152 projects outside Xinjiang, 22 were identified for more detailed investigation.

The investigative mission concluded that:

- Wu's claims are unsubstantiated. The Bank is satisfied that its funds in Xinjiang and in other parts of China are being used for the purposes intended.
- The Tarim Basin Project has been implemented as planned, providing significant benefits to more than half a million very poor people—most of them members of the mainly Muslim Uygur minority—in one of the most arid parts of China.
- The Bank is satisfied that the Xinjiang State Farms Organization is implementing Bank projects without the use of forced labor. But, to avoid even the appearance of a link to forced labor, Xinjiang State Farms Organization will serve as an implementing agency for future projects only with a complete separation of its commercial and civilian activities from its other functions, specifically prison management. □

☎ For more information or to obtain copies of the report, call Graham Barrett at (202) 458-0344, fax 522-3405, e-mail gbarrett@worldbank.org.

World Bank Lends Pakistan $350 Million For Power Project

The World Bank on December 19 approved a loan of $350 million to Pakistan to help finance the construction of the Ghazi-Barotha hydroelectric power project, to be built about 100 kilometers west of Islamabad.

The Bank's loan will finance about 15.6 percent of the total project financing cost, which is estimated at about $2.25 billion. The Bank-funded project will include technical assistance and training to strengthen the managerial, operational and financial efficiency of the Water and Power Development Authority—which will build the plant—so that it may better carry out the environmental and resettlement plans connected to the project.

Construction of the power plant is considered essential for reducing the high cost of electricity and increasing access to electricity in Pakistan's rural areas, which are under-served. An additional 2,000 megawatts of annual generating capacity are required to successfully eliminate load shedding and to keep pace with skyrocketing demand, growing at an estimated 1,000 megawatts a year.

"Developing Pakistan's energy sector is essential for improving the living standards of a rapidly growing population and for sustaining the country's economic growth," said Zoubeida Ladhibi-Belk, power engineer at the World Bank's South Asia Department. "The Ghazi-Barotha Hydropower Project is highly economically attractive. The country needs such hydropower projects to provide low-cost electricity and to meet the ever-increasing gap between demand and power generation," she said.

Pakistan's shortage of energy is one of the most serious handicaps to the country's development. Economic growth, increasing access to commercial energy sources, agricultural modernization, and the increasing pace of industrial production have caused Pakistan's consumption of commercial energy over the past decade to expand at an average annual rate of about 6.1 percent a year. The forecast of Pakistan's unconstrained commercial energy demand calls for an annual increase of about 6.7 percent up to 2008.

The Government's strategy for the energy sector focuses on encouraging new thermal power projects in the private sector supplemented by selected hydropower projects, to be built by the public sector. This strategy allows the country to attract managerial skills and financing from the private sector, and to develop the more economical hydropower resources in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Power plant construction will involve works near the village of Ghazi; a 52-kilometer-long power channel; a power complex near the village of Barotha, to generate about 6,600 GWh of energy annually; transmission facilities; and environmental management and resettlement plans.

The environmental impact of the project was of special concern to the Bank, which

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Barrage pond site for the power project.

Pakistan Lagging Behind in Human Development, Study Shows

Pakistan has made progress in reducing poverty but still lags behind in human development, according to a recent *Poverty Assessment* by the World Bank.

The number of poor people fell to 38.7 million in 1991 from 43.6 million in 1984, and per capita GDP increased by 70 percent between 1972 and 1994, the report said. But despite some progress in human development over the last 20 years, Pakistan still ranks below average among many developing countries.

"Pakistan's performance in important human development indicators has been the Achilles' heel of the country's development effort," says Hugo Diaz, World Bank senior country economist for Pakistan. "Without sustained gains in health status and accumulation of skills, continued growth in labor productivity and incomes will not be possible."

Infant mortality declined by one-third in the last two decades, but a recent Bank study placed Pakistan 50th among 71 developing countries in progress at reducing infant mortality. Pakistan is also 35th among 43 countries ranked by their progress in increasing primary school enrollment, although its enrollment has risen by 19 per-

See **POVERTY** *page 5*

India On The Way To Eliminating Leprosy, World Bank Says

A World Bank-sponsored program to eliminate leprosy in India by the year 2000 is on track, according to a yearly progress review recently conducted of India's National Leprosy Elimination Project.

"India's progress toward its goal of eliminating leprosy by the turn of the century has been well beyond expectations," said Dr. Salim Habayeb, senior public health physician at the World Bank. "The world cannot eliminate leprosy as a public health problem unless India eliminates leprosy," he added.

India has reduced the number of leprosy cases from 1.7 million in 1991 to 653,000 today, reducing the rate in the population from 19.50 to 7.12 per 10,000.

In 1993, the International Development Association, the World Bank's concessional lending affiliate, approved an $85 million credit to support the project. The World Health Assembly has defined elimination as reaching a level of prevalence below 1 case per 10,000.

The reduction in leprosy cases was ahead of projections at the time the project was appraised. The burden of severe new deformities, which impede a person's ability to work, has decreased from 18,419 cases in 1991-92 to 15,255 in 1994-95, and is expected to total 12,232 in 1995-96, based on data from the first six months of this year.

The state of Maharashtra is expected to eliminate leprosy by 1998-99 when a prevalence rate of 0.9 per 10,000 population is expected. In West Bengal, progress has been slower but is now advancing steadily. The highest number of cases on record is in the state of Bihar, with 180,000 persons with leprosy. Multi-drug therapy (MDT) is progressing according to plans in most states.

The World Bank has commended the government's notable progress towards leprosy elimination and has recommended that: more training in disability care be undertaken with the participation of well-established non-governmental organizations; public awareness camps and fairs be increased, since non-formal methods of education are effective in the villages, as well as surgery camps for disability through district leprosy societies.

India has reduced the number of leprosy cases from 1.7 million in 1991 to 653,000 today, reducing the rate in the population from 19.5 to 7.12 per 10,000.

The project is training some 160,000 health care workers in MDT, a revolutionary combination of three drugs developed in part with World Bank financing and used to treat leprosy patients. It also provides training in disability care for patients. For those patients who have already lost limbs to leprosy, the project pays for reconstructive surgery to correct deformities.

Public awareness and community participation have received a big boost from the project. Informal education efforts bring "awareness camps" to communities to raise understanding of leprosy and to discourage stigmatizing people afflicted by the disease.

The review mission visited the Missionaries of Charity & Mother Teresa in West Bengal, which is now among the NGOs receiving assistance in medicines to treat leprosy and training in other public health areas, including counseling and caring of people with AIDS. □

☎For more information, call Rebeca Robboy at (202) 473-0699, fax 522-0321, e-mail rrobboy@worldbank.org.

Malawi, Zambia Donors Meetings

Delegates to the seventh Consultative Group meeting for Malawi recently confirmed they will fully meet the African country's external financing needs of $332 million in 1996. They praised the government for its progress in stabilizing the economy and its commitment to reducing poverty. External flows are estimated at $827 million over the next three years.

Meeting in Bournemouth, UK, from December 11-12, donors lauded Malawi's performance in adjustment measures over the last year, in the face of severe economic difficulties. Malawi remains one of the lowest-ranking countries in the world in terms of per capita income, nutrition, access to safe water and immunization. Forty percent of the population is unable to satisfy basic caloric needs and one in four Malawian children dies before the age of five. Income inequality in Malawi is among the most skewed in the world.

Donors welcomed Malawi's policy of providing free primary education as an important first step in improving social indicators and stressed the importance of establishing a more equitable society, reducing poverty and increasing opportunities for women.

Separately, the Consultative Group for Zambia, meeting in Bournemouth from December 14-15, recognized the government's accomplishments in macro-economic management and congratulated it on its privatization program, but expressed deep concern over the country's worsening social conditions. Delegates emphasized the vital link between good governance, economic growth and improving the welfare of the Zambian people.

Provided that the government maintains momentum in economic reforms and achieves tangible progress in the governance agenda, donors said they will pledge $300 million in project and commodity support in 1996. The country's gross financing requirements are estimated at about $750 million, assuming no new rescheduling. □

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Resettlement, Environment Issues Tackled With Local Participation

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carried out an environmental impact assessment study. Project preparation involved extensive public consultation and participation, leading to the establishment of a main public information center and two other information centers at the project site. Significant changes in the design itself, including the selection of alternative sites, were included to lessen potential adverse impacts, and environmental monitoring plans have been prepared.

The Resettlement Action Plan, based on a census and surveys of those affected by the project, public participation (including those affected and local non-governmental organizations) and the assistance of a legal task force, outlines "entitlement packages" aimed at improving or restoring former living standards and earning capacities of the affected people. A legal task force also helped with the plan. A total of 22,360 people will be affected by the project, in most cases only to a limited extent. Of these, only 899 people, or 4 percent, living in 110 housing units will need to be resettled. To provide additional safeguards for people in the area, an Integrated Regional Development Plan will provide health and education programs, agricultural development through a credit extension service and business and industrial development.

The Bank loan will also include financing of interest on the loan itself during construction, alleviating the Authority's debt service burden over the medium-term and easing difficulties in raising financing in the commercial market.

The project is being co-financed with the Asian Development Bank, the governments of Japan and Germany, the European Investment Bank and the Islamic Development Bank.

The loan, in US dollars, will be the only one to be granted to Pakistan on single currency terms in fiscal 1996. It constitutes 60 percent of the Bank's $580 million lending program to Pakistan for fiscal 96 (including guarantees. Terms are at standard Bank interest rates repayable in 20 years, including a five-year grace period.

Overall, the Bank has provided 10 loans to the Authority, with seven out of nine projects completed to date. Lessons learned from these projects and other similar projects financed by the Bank have had an important bearing on the new project and were integrated in planning and design. □

☎ For more information, call Rebeca Robboy at (202) 473-0699, fax 522-0321, e-mail: rrobboy@worldbank.org.

Much Still Needs to be Done in Social Sector

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cent since 1974. These figures belie the fact that the country's per capita GNP is higher than the average for all low-income countries.

Pakistan's fertility rate is 65 percent higher and its infant mortality rate is 30 percent higher than the average for all low-income countries, while its adult literacy rate is 25 percent lower. With a growth rate of 3 percent a year, the population will double in 23 years, placing enormous demands on basic public services, even just to preserve current levels of coverage and quality.

UNICEF / Isaac

Strengthen social safety net, Bank says.

Improving social sector performance has long been cited as a key development objective, but progress has been limited by insufficient political commitment, inadequate funding and poor implementation capacity. Although things are improving, much still needs to be done, Bank officials said. For example, access to quality services in education, health and family planning is still limited, there is little accountability to service clients and government resource allocations have been too low to provide adequate services.

The *Poverty Assessment* puts forward a series of recommendations to the government, to: deepen economic and institutional reforms; strengthen the social safety net; develop a long-term strategy for financing basic social services; help alleviate rural poverty by fostering sustained agricultural growth; improve access to basic services in the slums; strengthen programs targeting women; address child labor issues; and enhance poverty monitoring activities. □

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World Bank Roundup

China The World Bank on December 19 approved a loan of $125 million and a credit of $25 million for an urban environmental project in the Hubei Province, to support policy and institutional innovation and physical works for wastewater handling, air pollution control and solid waste management. The loan will be used to purchase equipment and facilities for wastewater and municipal waste management; to extend credit to selected large-scale industrial enterprises to carry out pollution abatement works; to provide revolving funds to finance environmental impact investments; to fund water quality monitoring and management; and to finance technical assistance and training.

Separately, the World Bank also approved a loan of $10 million and a credit of $20 million on December 19 for a labor market development project in the Zhejiang Province. The project will finance: technical assistance to prepare labor legislation and regulations; the establishment of a labor market information system network and the institutional capacity to plan and manage a system of in-service training; and staff training to promote market-based employment services. For more information, call Graham Barrett at (202) 458-0344, fax 522-3405, e-mail gbarrett@worldbank.org.

India The International Development Association (IDA) on December 19 approved a credit of $290.9 million for a project to improve water management, planning and development in the eastern Indian state of Orissa. Eighty-seven percent of the state's population lives in rural areas and agriculture accounts for 44 percent of GDP in Orissa. The funds will help complete ongoing projects; rehabilitate and modernize selected existing irrigation schemes; increase and improve institutional capacity for planning, investments and management; and foster research, technology transfer and agricultural intensification in the water sector. The project includes support to resettle and rehabilitate people displaced by project works. For more information, call Rebeca Robboy at (202) 473-0699, fax 522-0321, e-mail rrobboy@worldbank.org.

Kenya IDA approved a credit of $22 million on December 14 to address poverty and poor living conditions in the arid lands of Kenya. The project will include three components: drought management, marketing and infrastructure, and community development. The first will institutionalize drought monitoring, rapid reaction, contingency planning and relief activities. The second will use a community-based approach to build and repair stock routes, water points and other market-related infrastructures, improve the livestock marketing information system and develop initiatives in marketing animals. The third will set up a pilot project to improve the central government's capacity to respond to the individual needs of local communities. For more information, call Eric Chinje at (202) 473-4467, fax 473-7917, e-mail echinje@worldbank.org.

Latvia The World Bank on December 14 approved a loan of $27.3 million for a municipal services development project in Latvia. The three-part project will help rehabilitate the transport system in Riga, the water and wastewater treatment plants in Daugavpils and set up a pilot municipal development fund to channel long-term credit for small-scale investments in other municipalities. For more information, call Jan Pakulski at (202) 473-1797, fax 522-2633, e-mail jpakulski@worldbank.org.

Niger IDA approved a credit of $26.7 million on December 14 to help reverse natural resource degradation in Niger's rural communities. The credit will fund an initial five-year project that is part of a long-term program, lasting 20-25 years. It will help design and implement community-based natural resource management plans in about 280 communities in five districts and will provide assistance to ongoing projects in 100 other communities. The project will also support national policy-making, research and studies, assessment of natural resources, human resource development and public awareness. For more information, call Eric Chinje at (202) 473-4467, fax 473-7917, e-mail echinje@worldbank.org.

Uganda IDA approved a credit of $12.3 million on December 14 for a project to make the Ugandan private sector more competitive. Funds will be used by a private sector foundation to advise the government on policy issues, by a business services program to increase know-how and expertise in private firms, by the Uganda Equity Facility to mobilize resources from private investors and by an investment authority that will focus on promotion and facilitation of private investment. For more information, call Eric Chinje at (202) 473-4467, fax 473-7917, e-mail echinje@worldbank.org.

Development Agenda

Date	Event	Sponsor	Location	Telephone
December				
26	Global Coalition on Africa	World Bank	Maastricht	(331) 4069-3020
January 1996				
17-18	Panel: "Privatization and Employment in the Context of Economic Reform"	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development/Arab Monetary Fund	Abu Dhabi	(202)473-2318*
24	Emerging Market Seminar	ICBI	Paris	(441)71-930-8515
30	Kenya Consultative Group Meeting	World Bank	Paris	(331)40693011
February				
5-10	Fifteenth Meeting of the Consultative Committee	Common Fund for Commodities	Amsterdam	(020) 664-6409
5-16	Third Preparatory Committee on Human Settlements	United Nations	New York	(212)963-4556*
13	Tanzania Consultative Group Meeting	World Bank	Paris	(331)40693011
27	Keynote address: "The Bank's Views on Instrastructure and Finance in the Middle East"	Middle East Economic Digest	Bahrain	(202)473-2318*

Editor's Note: *Development Agenda* is a feature that alerts journalists to key news events in the field of economic development. Journalists should contact sponsoring agencies for details about each event. Asterisk (*) indicates telephone number is in the U.S.A. All other telephone numbers include country and city codes.

Head of New Brussels Office Appointed

Spiros Voyadzis has been named World Bank special representative to the European Union and manager of the Bank's new office in Brussels, the World Bank announced December 15.

Effective January 15, Voyadzis will be in charge of relations with the European Commission and other EU institutions and their key constituencies involved in EU affairs. As manager of the Brussels office, he will also support the Bank's outreach and dissemination efforts in Belgium.

Voyadzis, a Greek national, joined the Bank in December 1975 as a loan officer and economist in the Europe, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region. In 1980, he transferred as an assistant to the vice president of External Relations and a year later became the program coordinator in that office. In March 1984, Voyadzis transferred to the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Region as division chief for country operations, serving several Central American and Caribbean countries. In May 1989, Voyadzis transferred back to the MENA Region as country operations division chief serving several countries, including Egypt, Lebanon and Yemen. Finally, in April 1995, he became head of the Issues Management Division in the External Affairs Department. □

"The Objective Is For the Bosnian Economy to Manage Itself"

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health. Donors also agreed to assist with the establishment of a social fund to help the elderly and others who are particularly vulnerable in the aftermath of the war. Working capital will be provided to jump-start production in small- and medium-sized enterprises, and some backup reserves will be made available to the central bank. Help will also be given to strengthen domestic institutions which have an important role to play in the recovery program.

The nature of the contributions were broadly consistent with the Bank's and EC's priority program, although there will be some adjustments reflecting the interests and priorities of participating donors.

The Bank indicated that, subject to the approval of its Executive Board, and subject also to the realization of the commitments made by the donor community at the Brussels meeting, it would make a special allocation of $150 million available to Bosnia. These concessional funds could be used to support reconstruction and social needs as detailed in the priority program in advance of Bosnia becoming a member of the World Bank Group.

The Bank also indicated that work was ongoing to resolve the arrears and membership issue. After becoming a member of the Bank, Bosnia would likely be eligible to borrow from the Bank Group's concessional lending arm, the International Development Association. The Bank also announced the creation of a trust fund which it would administer to receive contributions from donors who find this a convenient vehicle to channel all or part of their contributions.

The EC indicated that it would make an exceptional up-front effort for specific rehabilitation projects and critical imports amounting to a contribution of $112 million in the first quarter of 1996.

Participants agreed that the development of effective coordination mechanisms on the ground would be essential, and that further discussions are urgently needed to arrive at agreed coordination structures that provide simple and clear rules for the most efficient use of donor resources and effective collaboration with institutions in Bosnia.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) presented a statement to the meeting on macro-economic issues. On the same day, the IMF's Board in Washington decided to admit Bosnia and Herzegovina to membership, effective immediately.

The Brussels meeting came as NATO stepped up deployment in Bosnia of a 60,000-strong military force—known as IFOR, with a grant of authority from the United Nations—to implement the peace agreement signed December 14 by the presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia.

In four years of war in Bosnia, one quarter of a million people have been killed, more than 200,000 wounded and 13,000 permanently disabled—with the young bearing a large share of the burden.

Emergency needs are multiple: domestic food production has dropped to 35 percent of needs, and eight out of 10 people are partly or wholly dependent on food aid. Infant mortality has doubled, while epidemics and communicable diseases have increased two-to-five-fold. More than half the country's doctors and nurses, and an indeterminate number of teachers, have been lost in the last four years, through death or migration. There are severe shortages of essential drugs and medical equipment. Estimates of the number of unexploded land mines vary greatly and range from 1.5 to 4 million.

Most of the country's infrastructure and economy have been destroyed. More than one-third of health infrastructure and half the country's school buildings have been seriously damaged or destroyed. Virtually all parts of the transportation system have been damaged and the government estimates that more than half of all housing units have sustained at least some damage—with one in five units destroyed.

Annual per capita income has plunged to about $500 from $1,900 in 1990, while industrial output has dropped to 5 percent of 1990 output. Overall production has plummeted: 78 percent of electrical generating capacity is out of commission, coal production is less than 10 percent of pre-war levels and daytime international telephone call completion rates have dropped to 1 or 2 percent. □

☎For more information, call Tim Cullen at (202) 473-1782, fax 522-2632, e-mail tcullen@worldbank.org

GEF Grant to Russia

The World Bank on December 21 approved a Global Environmental Facility Trust Fund grant of $3.2 million to the Russian Federation to help finance a project to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. The grant will finance an energy project to identify and prioritize investments and improvements in procedures in the natural gas supply and utilization system, as part of a greenhouse gas reduction program. The World Bank is one of three implementing agencies of the GEF. For more information, call Jan Pakulski at (202) 473-1797, fax 522-2633, e-mail jpakulski@worldbank.org.

WORLD BANK NEWS

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